

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /084 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RLBARRY:HM

APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN

AF:WBEDMONDSON

-----046867 100306Z /64

O 100242Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, RH

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON RHODESIA

1. ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES IN THE UNFOLDING UNSC RHODESIA DEBATE IS WHETHER BISHOP MUZOREWA WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS. THE COUNCIL HAS INVITED NKOMO AND MUGABE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THE AFRICAN GROUP AT THE UN HAD EARLIER MADE A DECISION NOT TO OPPOSE HAVING THE COUNCIL HEAR MUZOREWA SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT RHODESIA PLANNED TO USE CENSORSHIP POWERS TO KEEP NKOMO AND MUGABE'S COMMENTS OUT OF THE RHODESIAN MEDIA, THE AFRICA GROUP WITHDREW ITS DECISION AND IS NOW SPLIT. WE EXPECT A FIGHT TO DEVELOP OVER CONFIDENTIAL

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WHETHER MUZOREWA SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO SPEAK.

2. THE US, THE UK, AND THE OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL STRONGLY SUPPORT MUZOREWA'S RIGHT TO SPEAK. THIS IS NO SENSE REFLECTS OUR VIEW OF THE POSITION MUZOREWA TAKES. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND FIND THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT INADEQUATE.

HOWEVER, THE SPECTACLE OF THE COUNCIL REFUSING
TO HEAR MUZOREWA'S SIDE OF THE STORY WOULD BE DAMAGING TO

THE UN AND COULD PROVIDE SMITH WITH A PROPAGANDA VICTORY
IN THE EYES OF WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION.

3. THE BRITISH HAVE INSTRUCTED SOME OF THEIR EMBASSIES
IN CAPITALS OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ON THE SECURITY
COUNCIL TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS ON THIS ISSUE. YOU
SHOULD CHECK WITH YOUR BRITISH COLLEAGUE AND MAKE A
DEMARCHE JOINTLY WITH HIM, OR ALONE IF HE IS NOT INSTRUCTED
OR HAS ALREADY MADE SUCH AN APPROACH. YOU SHOULD ASK
HOST GOVERNMENT TO INSTRUCT THEIR DELEGATION IN NEW YORK
TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION IF THEY AGREE WITH OUR LINE OF
REASONING. SINCE DECISION ON MUZOREWA MAY BE TAKEN AS
EARLY AS MARCH 10, YOU SHOULD MAKE DEMARCHE ASAP. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DEBATES, NEGOTIATIONS, NATIONALISTS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE061565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLBARRY:HM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780107-0437
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780382/aaaacqyw.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2799acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3370894
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON RHODESIA
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, RH, UNSC, ANC, (MUZOREWA, ABEL)
To: CARACAS LA PAZ
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2799acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014